

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A method of operating a device in a mobile communications network, the device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, a user layer and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS system, wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, wherein said SDU comprises information indicative of a process, the method comprising
- in response to a signal from said RLC layer, said signal being indicative of discard of said SDU, causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said lower layer a predetermined number N of times;
- and in response to N further signals indicative of said discard, causing said RRC layer to submit to said RLC layer a failure response message indicative that said process indicated by the information of the SDU has failed.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising setting an operating mode wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein $N=0$.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein if said RLC layer discards said failure response message, said method further comprises causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer a predetermined number N of times; and

in response to N further signals indicative of said discard, submitting by said RRC layer to said RLC layer of a CELL UPDATE indicative of an unrecoverable error in said RLC layer for emission in response thereto.

5 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein if said RLC layer discards said failure response message, said method further comprises submitting by said RRC layer to said RLC layer of a CELL UPDATE message arranged to cause the network control device to emit for said user device a CELL UPDATE CONFIRM message arranged to cause said user device to reconfigure to a determined state.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein if said RLC layer discards said failure response message, said method further comprises releasing connection between peer layers at the said device and the said network and entering an idle mode.

15 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein if said RLC layer discards said failure response message, causing said RRC layer to respond as though the failure response message was duly sent.

8. A method of operating a device in a mobile communications network, the
20 device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, a user layer and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS system, wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, wherein said SDU comprises information indicative of a process, the method comprising

in response to a submission of an SDU by said RRC layer to said RLC layer,
starting a timing process in the RRC layer;

in response to an indication that the timing process has reached a
predetermined timeout, causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC
5 layer a predetermined number N of times, on each occasion starting said timing
process;

and in response to N further timeout signals, causing said RRC layer to submit
to said RLC layer a failure response message indicative that said process indicated by
the information of the SDU has failed.

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9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising setting an operating mode
wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein $N=0$.

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11. A method according to claim 8, wherein in response to said RRC layer
submitting to said RLC layer a said failure response message, said timer process is
started and in response to timeout of said timer process, said method further
comprises causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer a
20 predetermined number N of times, on each occasion restarting said timer process; and

in response to N further timeout signals, submitting by said RRC layer to said
RLC layer of a CELL UPDATE indicative of an unrecoverable error in said RLC
layer for emission in response thereto.

12. A method according to claim 8, wherein if said RLC layer discards said failure response message, said method further comprises submitting by said RRC layer to said RLC layer of a CELL UPDATE arranged to cause the network control device to emit for said user device a CELL UPDATE CONFIRM message arranged to
5 cause said user device to reconfigure to a determined state.

13. A method according to claim 8, wherein in response to said RRC layer submitting to said RLC layer a said failure response message, said timer process is started and in response to timeout of said timer process, said method further
10 comprises releasing connection between peer layers at the said device and the said network and entering an idle mode.

14. A method according to claim 8, wherein in response to said RRC layer submitting to said RLC layer a said failure response message, said timer process is
15 started and in response to timeout of said timer process, causing said RRC layer to respond as though the failure response message was duly sent.